

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

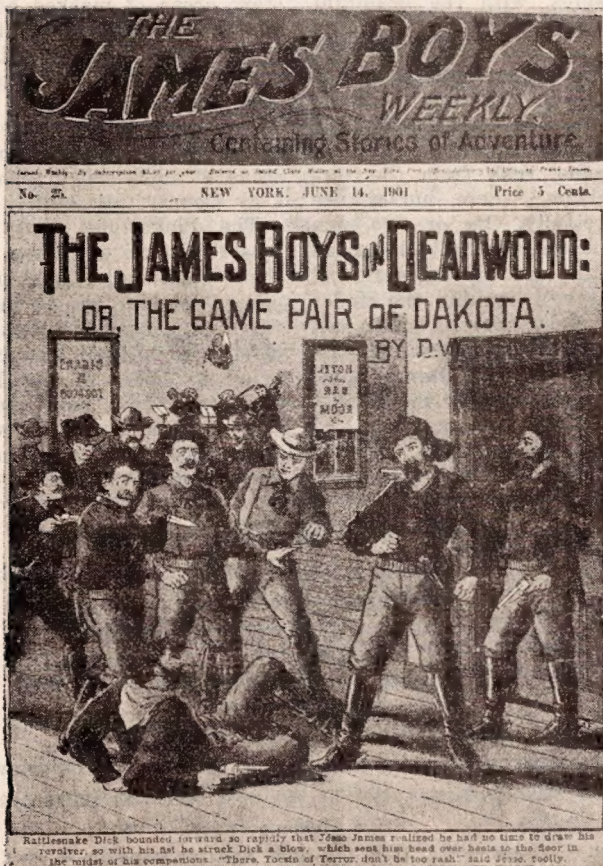
Vol. 23 No. 9

September 15, 1955

Whole No. 276

The Bandit Brothers of Old Missouri

by J. Edward Leithead



The Bandit Brothers of Old Missouri

by J. Edward Leithhead

First of a series of articles about famous bandits and badmen of the Old West in dime novels.

A moving eye in the night, the prolonged shriek of a locomotive whistle, echoing back from dark and distant hills . . . it's a fast express of the Kansas Pacific, or the Chicago & Alton, or the Missouri Pacific, and the alert hogger spies ahead the red signal of danger, a flaming torch perhaps, frantically flagging the train. He cannot ignore that signal and his hand tightens on the throttle; he slows, stops, with the headlight glaring on an obstruction of loose ties.

Too late the hogger realizes this is a holdup; men in wide-brimmed hats, with bandannas or eye-holed flour sacks hiding their identity and bristling with guns, rush from the surrounding gloom, where horses are stamping fretfully. One or two men jump into the cab of the bell-stacked engine, to take care of engineer and fireman. The rest, making the cinder apron rattle under spurred boots, halt by the express-car or enter the passenger coaches. It's the James Boys, Frank and Jesse, aided by the Younger Brothers, Cole, Jim and Bob, and perhaps also Clell Miller, Charlie Pitts, Art McCoy, Bill Chadwell,

George and Ollie Shepherd! Train robbery is their business, or one form of it, for banks and stagecoaches as well have fallen prey many times to these notorious border outlaws, whose luck in riding clear of the law will one day fail them.

In one train holdup the gang spurred off with as much as fifty thousand dollars, sometimes the take was much less. Sometimes their six-shooters smoked and dropped a victim inclined to resist, or a stubborn express messenger was pistol-whipped. Small town banks were in almost constant dread of masked horsemen riding up in daylight, ready to trade lead for gold and greenbacks if the money wasn't handed over promptly. Killings were frequent in these raids. The James-Younger gang seemed always to be riding hard, fleeing from the scene of some crime to hideaways in Clay County, Missouri.

The Pinkertons, that highly successful detective agency, were after them continually, but, usually, just missed catching up. At one time there was as much as ten thousand dollars offered to anyone who could kill or bring in either of the James Boys. The feat would have been worth it, but none of the men who pursued them—and many must have been as nervy and pistol expert as the bandits

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

Vol. 23 No. 9

September 15, 1955

Whole No. 276

Published Monthly at

821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas

Edited by

Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Assistant Editor

Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Asst. Ed. Photography—Charles Duprez, 228 Larch Lane, Smithtown, L.I., N.Y.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Lawrence, Kansas

Price \$2.00 per year

Ad Rates — 6c per word. \$1.00 per inch, quarter page \$2.25, half page \$3.00 and Full Page \$5.00. — 4 times for the price of three.

Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

—ever were able to collect the reward.

The robbery of the bank at Northfield, Minnesota, was almost one too many. Aroused citizens started mowing down the members of the gang in the street while three others—Jesse James being one—were inside the bank, scooping money into gunnysacks. Jesse pumped lead into the bank cashier before they raced for their horses. Under heavy gunfire, the outlaws began shooting their way out of Northfield. They lost Bill Chadwell and Clell Miller in the desperate fighting, the survivors hitting a gallop for the outlands. The three Youngers were later trapped in brush country, but the James Boys, though wounded, won through to their distant home State, forking stolen horses. The fighting qualities of the bandits was worthy of a better cause, for the Youngers, brought to bay, shot it out with a big posse until all but Bob Younger were down. Later, at their trial, they received life sentences.

Frank and Jesse James didn't stay long in Missouri after the Northfield business—too many lawmen and others were ready to close in and finish them. The outlaw brothers struck out for Old Mexico, via Texas, and some accounts of them, from here on, detail a series of exploits in which Frank and Jesse plundered a pack-train of silver ore, attended a fandango at Matamoros, where it was six-shooter against knife when the hidalgos began to ridicule the desperadoes' not-too-graceful dancing, pistoled their way out of another fandango at Montelova when, upon being recognized as the notorious Missouri bandits, Mexican army officers tried to take them into custody, fought Mexican cattle thieves on both sides of the Rio Grande. Certain it is that Frank and Jesse saw considerable action in Old Mexico, Texas and California before showing up in Nebraska for another train holdup.

It has been told many times how Jesse James, residing at St. Joseph, Missouri, as "Thomas Howard", removed his guns in the presence of Bob and Charlie Ford, and when he stepped on a chair to dust a picture,

received a slug in his brain from Bob's revolver. Both the Fords had been trying to get Jesse at a disadvantage for some time, tempted by the big reward for this piece of treachery. Bob lived about ten years longer, ending up violently at Creede, Colorado—long enough to learn he was no hero for his back-shooting. Frank James, away at the time of Jesse's death, finally gave himself up to Governor Crittenden, of Missouri; got a life sentence, but was pardoned some time afterward because of ill health.

For a couple of preacher's sons—their father was the Rev. Robert James, and Mrs. James married Dr. Reuben Samuels after her first husband died in California—Frank and Jesse certainly broke most of the ten commandments which must have been taught them in early youth. They got off to a bad start riding with the guerrillas of William Clarke Quantrill. Despite their misdeeds, Frank and Jesse were "marrying men" and both left descendants who were of excellent character.

The Younger Brothers likewise should have turned out better than they did, for Henry W. Younger, the father, was not only a successful storekeeper but a county judge and a member of the Missouri legislature. But Cole, Jim and Bob also got their bad start under Quantrill's Black Flag.

With such a wealth of lurid material at hand concerning the James-Younger gang, it's not to be wondered at that dime novelists took up and enlarged the tales of their outlawry that had appeared in newspapers of the day as front page news. The first novel about them was *The Train Robbers*, or, *A Story of the James Boys*, by D. W. Stevens (John R. Musick), published as #440 of the *Wide Awake Library* (Tousey), followed by #457, *The James Boys as Guerrillas*, #462, *The James Boys and the Vigilantes*, #466, *The James Boys and the Ku Klux*, #469, *The James Boys in California*, #474, *The James Boys as Train Wreckers*, #479, *The James Boys in Minnesota*, #482.

The James Boys as Highwaymen—in all about seventeen stories, written by Musick under the pseudonym "D. W. Stevens".

A word about John R. Musick: his birthplace was a farm near St. Louis, Missouri; he started practising law, but was writing on the side in 1881—when Jesse James had less than a year longer to live—and in 1882, Musick gave up the law profession to write. He knew the country of the James-Younger gang and produced a long list of interesting stories about them. Stories by him also appeared in *Young Men of America*, the *Nickel Library*, the *Yankee Blade* and the *New York Ledger*.

The series of 17 James Boys stories was removed from later editions of *Wide Awake Library* and reprinted (two or three to an issue because of their short length) in Tousey's great *New York Detective Library*. They started with #342, *Chasing the James Boys*, and after the reprints came new stories by Musick, and also F. W. Doughty, writing under the pseudonym "A New York Detective". Altogether, there were over two hundred of these James Boys tales in *New York Detective*.

Under the heading **NEWS ITEMS** in **DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP** dated November 1939, is the statement that "a man named Pendexter, in Norway, Maine, wrote some of the James Boys Weekly". This, of course, was Hugh Pendexter, who later became famous for his historical serials of American pioneering in **ADVENTURE MAGAZINE**. During all our long correspondence, Pendexter never mentioned writing dime novels, but it could be that he did, and if so, these James Boys stories must have been written for *New York Detective*, as I understand the *James Boys Weekly* was made up entirely of reprints.

Doughty's great detective, *Old King Brady*, figured in many of the James Boys tales he wrote for *New York Detective*—#359, *Old King Brady* and the *James Boys*, #630, *The James Boys Working for Old King Brady*, #634, *The James Boys and Old King Brady in the Great Ste. Genevieve*

Bank Robbery, #673, *The James Boys in New York*, or, *Fighting Old King Brady*, *Old King Brady and the Ford Boys*, etc. Musick wrote one about the *Ford Boys* in #441, *The Ford Boys' Vengeance*, or, *From Bandits to Detectives*, the cover illustration showing *Bob Ford* shooting *Jesse*.

Here is an excerpt from *Wide Awake Library* #479, *The James Boys in Minnesota*, by John R. Musick—a story of the *Northfield bank robbery*:

"This log cabin is the home of the noted Missouri outlaws—Frank and Jesse James. It is the residence of Dr. Reuben Samuels, their step-father. Their mother, a lady wonderfully vivacious with her one arm, and the weight of fifty-four years, is standing in the door.

"Her arm was blown off by the explosion of a hand grenade, thrown into her house by Pinkerton's detectives a few years before. A young son of hers was killed by the same explosion. Jesse and Frank, who were in the house at the time, and the cause of the attack, after severely punishing the detectives, made their escape.

"It is a peaceful scene that meets the old lady's view as she stands in the door of her house, shading her eyes with her remaining hand. The farm-houses are thickly strewn along the road, all the way from Kearney to the James homestead. The fields of ripened wheat are cut down and gathered into stacks; the sound of the sickle and the distant whirr of the threshing machine make music that alone can be heard in harvest.

"'All right, boys; no one in sight,' says Mrs. Samuels, the tall old lady and mother of the outlaws.

"The persons addressed were none other than her two notorious sons, Frank and Jesse. That they should be home was nothing strange. Deeds of daring and coolness were almost of hourly occurrence.

"Jesse and Frank did not know fear, and yet exercised in the midst of their most daring acts a care and prudence which was wonderful.

"'I think, mother,' said Jesse, who

sat coolly at a table with his solemn, grave-looking brother on the opposite side, 'that it is useless for you to stand there looking out for anyone. The fact is, people have lost a relish for the capture of the James Boys.'

"As Jesse spoke, he laughed so heartily and merrily that the house rang with the echo.

"It seems that they would begin to by this time,' replied the mother, entering the house and closing the door. There was a look of pride upon her face, as she turned her eyes upon her tall sons . . .

"Well, Frank, what do you think of it?" said Jesse to his brother, who was scanning a map of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Nebraska, which was lying between them on the table.

"I hardly know,' replied the solemn Frank."

He argued that "we have no friends in Minnesota" and "it will be a long retreat, even if we should prove successful." The looting of the Northfield bank had been proposed by Bill Chadwell, who was from Minnesota. Actually, it was Cole Younger, not Frank James, who objected to operating at such a distance from friendly neighbors, in unfamiliar territory. Cole went along—but, in view of what happened, it would have been better for them had they heeded him.

Stories of the James Boys appeared in other Tousey publications: Boys of New York, Young Men of America, Golden Weekly. Even Frank Reade went after the bandits in Frank Reade, the Inventor, Chasing the James Boys With His Steam Team; and Jack Wright, that other youthful inventor, in Boy's Star Library #344, Jack Wright and His Electric Stage, or, Leagued Against the James Boys, by Noname (Lu Senarens). Also Young Sleuth in #58 of that library, Young Sleuth's Long Trail, or, The Keen Detective after the James Boys.

When the colored cover weeklies came in, Tousey issued a reprint series of the tales from New York Detective—The James Boys Weekly. This was in 1901, the first number was The James Boys, or, The Bandit

King's Last Shot (a story by Musick, I think this was originally published in Young Men of America). I have a list of 142 titles of this weekly, the last entitled, The James Boys and the Sheriff's Spy, or, Timberlake's Fatal Fight. Sheriff James Timberlake was a real person, as were many others besides the bandits in these stories. I'm not so sure that Carl Greene, the detective who pursues the James Boys in the long series, was any more than a creation of Musick's or Doughty's. "D. W. Stevens" is the only name that appears as author, but of course the stories penned by Doughty were included.

Beadle & Adams shunned tales of these famous border outlaws in their story-papers and libraries, but Street & Smith printed a lot of them by various authors. The first, probably, were two stories in the Secret Service Series, 25-cent paper-covered novels published by Street & Smith in 1887: #28, Bob Younger's Fate, by Edwin S. Deane (Edward S. Ellis) and #32, Adventures and Exploits of the Younger Brothers, by Henry Dale (Robert Russell). These were reprinted in Log Cabin pocket edition only. No sub-titles. In the reprint, #32 is simply, The Younger Brothers. I'm listing James Boys and Younger Brothers stories together because they made up the James-Younger gang. Log Cabin Library #49 was The Younger Brothers' Vow, or, Hunted Down in Arkansas, by Jack Sharpe (St. George Rathborne). Nugget Library published in #129, Pawnee Bill and Jesse James, or, The Kansas Raiders, by H. L. Wheeler (St. George Rathborne) and in #132, The Bandits of the West, or, The Startling Adventures of the Boys of the Border, a James Boys story, by R. M. Taylor (H. P. Halsey). #132 was reprinted as The Winston Train Hold-up in New York Five Cent Library.

Having listed these smaller series of James-Younger tales in Street & Smith black-and-white publications, I turn to one of the longer series featuring the James Boys, in Log Cabin Library (some of them probably first

published in the New York Weekly).

The series started with #4, Jesse James, the Outlaw. A Narrative of the James Boys, by Captain Jake Shackleford, the author's real name. Followed, at intervals, 31 more Jesse James tales: #50, 54, 57, 61, 71, 74, 90, 94, 104, 107, 110, 113, 117, 120, 126 by St. George Rathbone (No. 222 was also by him, a reprint of No. 50), and Nos. 131, 133, 148, 155, 165, 167, 171, 175, 225, 228, 230, 237, 241, 245, 252 by T. W. Hanshew both of them writing under the pen name "W. B. Lawson."

There were also, in Log Cabin Library, the following stories of robbers who tried to imitate the James Boys; the author I'm not sure of, but probably St. George Rathborne or T. W. Hanshew:

#101—Jesse James' Successor. By W. B. Lawson.

#174—Jesse James Outdone, or, The Missouri-Pacific Train Robbery. By W. B. Lawson.

#183—A Second Jesse James, or, The Capture and Conviction of a Bold Bank Thief. By W. B. Lawson.

#195—A Louisiana Jesse James, or, Killed in the Swamp. By W. B. Lawson.

#196—Just Like the James Boys, or, Wiped Out by Vigilantes. By W. B. Lawson.

The first number of the Jesse James Stories. Original Narratives of the James Boys, a colored cover weekly, was published by Street & Smith on May 11, 1901. It was a reprint of Log Cabin Library #4, but the author was given as "W. B. Lawson". In December, 1938, #1 was re-issued with the back cover advertising the big budget, technicolor talking picture, JESSE JAMES.

The Jesse James Stories ran to 138 issues. The stories were reprints of Log Cabin "James Boys" novels—I don't say "all" were from Log Cabin Library because the latter published only 32 titles (really 31 titles, as #50 was reprinted as #222), and even if they were split up, one making two of the Jesse James Stories, that would account for but 62 issues. There must have been quite a few from other

sources—but what sources besides the New York Weekly Nugget Library.

Well, we know of at least five new tales for the Jesse James Stories written by Laurana Sheldon. Our fellow member, Mr. George French, tells of this in his interesting interview with Laurana Sheldon, published in ROUNDUP dated October 1948. One time the late Mr. W. C. Miller told me, after looking over a list of Jesse James Stories I'd sent him, that four of the Log Cabin "James Boys" novels hadn't been reprinted in the colored cover weekly, but that two from Old Cap Collier Library (Munro) seemed to be there, with titles changed.

The following were printed in Old Cap Collier: #58, Frank James' Mistake, or, Compelled to Surrender, #128, Frank James Alarmed, #629, His Brother's Avenger, or, Frank James on Bob Ford's Track (this last was by S. A. D. Cox, the other two were by W. I. James, Jr., who wrote a lot of the Cap Collier series, using about 40 pen names—some of his stories were signed "By Old Cap Collier"). #58 was a special number of 56 pages, well illustrated, which could be split up into several shorter tales. In fact, I believe this was done, and that the illustrations in this special number were used as the covers for 4 Jesse James tales in Morrison's Sensational Series (published by John W. Morrison), the titles being: #4, The James Boys, #25, Jesse James and His Pals, 37, Jesse James' Last Shot, #46, Frank James on the Trail. There were two more in this library, #31, Yankee Oscar and the James Boys, #42, Jesse James and the Ford Boys, and possibly another, #38, The Capture of Dick Little (an outlaw of that name—Dick Liddil—raided with the James Boys). So, apparently some of these tales made the transition from Old Cap Collier Library to Morrison's Sensational Series and ended up in the Jesse James Stories.

These two in the Jesse James Stories are probably the tales from Old Cap Collier, revised, Frank James' name appearing in the original titles:

#87—Jesse James' Mistake, or, The Boy Detective's Plot.

#90—Jesse James Alarmed, or, Trailed by Old Zeke, the Detective.

The cover illustrations of this week-ly were very good—the few I've seen, for apparently only a small edition was printed and they're scarce—the artist (or one of them, anyway) being the same who drew the covers for some early issues of the Buffalo Bill Stories, and later issues, too, for that matter. I think it was the work of Edward Johnson. His male characters wore a rather heavy type of riding-boot.

The Bob Brooks Library (A. E. Ostendorff) published two about the Missouri bandits:

#23—The \$100,000 Robbery, or, Jim Cummings' Great Exploit (Cummins was a member of the band and his name is spelled correctly in at least two novels: New York Detective Library #679, The James Boys and Jim Cummins, by Musick, and James Boys Weekly #18, Jim Cummins and the Detectives, or, Wild Adventures on the Missouri, probably by Musick, also).

25—A \$17,000 Haul by Jesse and Frank James.

In a later article I shall review James Boys tales published by the Arthur Westbrook Company.

Mr. Leithead writes that the second line of the second column on Page 64 of the August issue of the Round-up should read as follows: "Guard, by Lt. Colonel Hazeltine, #12 California Joe, or, The Angel of the Wilderness by Lt. Colonel Hazeltine (battle)"

The next issue of the Dime Novel Round-up will contain James Perkins Tracy, by Ralph Adimari and The James Boys and the Northfield Bank Robbery by Roy E. Swanstrom.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Just received the July 15th Round-up, and I see my fizog in second place on the front cover. Everybody takes a

good picture, so that's all that matters. Charlie did quite an article, of which everyone I'm sure will thank him for same; the rest of the items are good, too.

Some more bad news—Ralph P. Smith reports that Charles M. Taylor of Phila., Pa. died some time last March. Also J. J. Coughlin of Lawrence, Mass. died April 13th. This makes 3 so far in 1955 (L. C. Skinner in Feb. 22nd). Looks as if the old timers are leaving us, one by one. While Charles Taylor is one of the old members, Mr. Skinner too, J. J. Coughlin is one of the later members of about 12 or 15 years in the Brotherhood. All three were great collectors, so I know that's another dent in our little novel brotherhood. I've met Charles Taylor and L. C. Skinner many times but never had the good fortune of meeting Mr. Coughlin, although Ed LeBlanc and his father, Eli Messier and myself were up to Lawrence trying to find him, but no luck. We all send our sincerest sympathy to their folks in the great losses they have had, for we all know they are in the land of the great beyond. God bless them always.

Frisco Bert and his wife have returned to the old home in San Aushuo, Calif. after a long vacation down in Old Mexico, and other southern countries. Frisco is writing a book on his travels that should be real interesting.

Ralph Smith reports that his youngest son Billy's wife just had twins, a boy and a girl. This is one way of having everyone satisfied as to wanting a boy or a girl.

Wm. Langell's new address is 9890 Bodega Highway, Sebastapol, Calif.

John Kunzog, an old H. H. Bro. member from Jamestown, N. Y. was here July 13th and 15th.

Right after he came in the first time, Clyde Wakefield rolled in. Guess Clyde must have had a second instinct that John was coming, or something. The 14th he went up to see Clyde's collection that night. Only thing was, John couldn't stay very long each visit. It was our first meeting, and let's hope we all meet again

a good many times.

On June 28th I visited Ed LeBlanc and family and stayed over night, leaving for Cape Cod (Falmouth) the next day. Came home by way of Boston after the 4th, and stopped to see Frank Henry for a while. While at the cape I stayed at my aunt's place, as my brother was all filled up for over the 4th, with over night boarders that his wife took in.

Roy Morris writes that he took a trip up to the old home town of Mason City, Iowa, coming back through Biloxi, Miss. and along the Gulf of Mexico, then to New Orleans and north through the Ozarks in Arkansas and Missouri, to Lexington, Mo. where some of the Civil War battles were fought. They saw a cannon ball imbedded in the court house wall, and went through the historic Anderson house, where one of the battles was fought. This is on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River. We then went over to Kearney, Mo., which is about 2 miles from the old home, where Jesse and Frank James were raised. We (Ray and his wife, and Skippy the yellow cat) had breakfast at Kearney, and then went to the cemetery there to see the grave of Jesse James. His mother and Dr. Samuels, his step-father, are buried in the same plot. Ray, his wife and Skippy traveled over 5000 miles. Smoky, their other cat, died at the age of 16 years last year.

Carl Linville and friends went on a trip to Florida and back.

Max Saltzman of Los Angeles says when he gets the Roundup every month, he turns to the newsy news first of all. (I'm afraid I'm falling down on the job at times, but will do my best.) Max says:

As for collecting, I haven't been doing too much of it lately. It's not so much a lack of time but a lack of cash that stops me. Then again, luck plays a part too. I guess I haven't been hitting the right places. The gold has all been dug up in California—but there's still uranium. I managed to get up to San Francisco last month for a couple of days. Not for the purpose of collecting, but just sight-

seeing—for a change of scene. Like all tourists, I managed to make my way to Cliff Beach. Here the visitors to San Francisco get to treat their eyes on many attractions. First, there's the famous Cliff House, a first class restaurant and such; then there are the Seal Rocks. But here is the point, the rest of things to see are really a collector's paradise. To one side of Cliff House is a little shop that contains all kinds of ship's models. Many are of the variety that are built within bottles. The workmanship is magnificent. On the other side of Cliff House is a vast building called "Sutro's". Here, I received a pleasant surprise. Sutro's is a combination of many things. It contains a Wax Museum, a Penny Arcade, a Ripley's Odditorium, an Ice Skating Rink, and many exhibits in general. As you walk directly, you are in the Wax Museum. Here are figures of P. T. Barnum, Tom Thumb and his wife, and other personalities—with plenty of authentic circusiiana along with it, like costumes, programs, billings, etc. One of the first things that caught my eye was an exhibit of a collection of miniature Circus Wagons. These are fabulous. Built as table models, but measured to scale and authentic and exact to every detail. Band-Wagons, Caliope—the whole parade. As I recall, there was mentioned that the collection was valued at \$25,000 (and not for sale). As you descend the steps to the basement floor that leads to the Ice Rink at Sutro's, you notice that the walls are covered with numerous pictures of old San Francisco and famous people . . . of an era gone by. On the balcony floor is the Penny Arcade. But inflation has penetrated through the years. Now, for a nickel or a dime you make the mechanical dolls and figures perform their routine. For a similar coin, you can make old music boxes chant their familiar tunes. The Ripley Odditorium contained a display of ancient instruments of torture. Most amazing. Over the door of the building is a sign that states, "You haven't seen San Francisco unless you've seen Sutro's" I believe it. Incidentally, both Cliff

House and Sutro's overlook the blue Pacific Ocean. Over in Golden Gate Park, at the Museum of Industry, there is an exhibit on clocks and timepieces that thrills the imagination.

Los Angeles and vicinity also has its own brand of places to see like the "Pony Express Museum" and other sights. Maybe, Ralph, it would be a good idea if each of the members of Happy Hours told a little bit of his own locality. Every place has its own particular background. And we can't always travel, even if we do want to. Right now, Los Angeles is looking forward to the opening this summer of "Disneyland" at Anaheim. That's about 30 miles from here. It's all new and the country is going to hear about it plenty during the next few weeks.

Along in June, William Bennett of Nashua, N. H., a Merriwell fan visited Ralph Smith, and was able to get some of his wants.

J. P. (Gripper) Guinon and wife are visiting in Florida.

Don Learnard and wife went out to Des Moines, Iowa, for a vacation.

E. Marvin Smith and family went up to Montreal, Canada, for a visit.

Art Neetz went to Panama City, Fla. and other places.

Ed. LeBlanc had a fine display of old novels at the Fall River Public Library June 16th and also a fine writeup in the "Herald News", June 16, 1955. Title—"LeBlanc's Book Collection Rated Among Five Best." (The display was on for a week.) Picture shows Ed holding a Beadle's Half Dime library while other novels and story papers are tacked up on the wall.

Wallace H. Waldrop of Greenville, S. C., also had an article in the "Greenville Piedmont". July 5th, 1955. Famous S. C. Literature. "Local Collectors July 4 Holiday Spent Reading About 'Liberty Boys of 76'", By Hamlin McBee. No picture of Wallace with this, where's the picture pard? Wallace says, "I just picked up the second book in the Davy Crockett series as published by Soloman & Gelman, of New York, and I do believe that they are the best books of their types since the old five and ten cent novels. Be

sure and look them up. I note that one of their next books will be about Wild Bill Hickock.

Here's the real dope on "The Great West That Was". "Buffalo Bill's Life Story" by Col. William F. Cody, illustrated by N. C. Wyeth, that I mentioned in the Roundup for July.

Don Russell says—The first installment appeared in Hearst's Magazine for August, 1916. (Not November) and it ran through the monthly issues for one year, closing in the issue of July, 1917. It was published in book form as "An Autobiography of Buffalo Bill (Colonel W. F. Cody)" illustrated by N. C. Wyeth, Cosmopolitan Book Corporation, New York, 1920. On the binding, both face and spine, the title appears however as "Buffalo Bill's Life Story, An Autobiography." This is not the same as "The Life of Hon. William F. Cody known as Buffalo Bill, the famous Hunter, Scout and Guide, an Autobiography." Published by Frank E. Bliss, Hartford, Conn, 1879. The text is quite different.

Today is Friday the 19th of August, and we are going through a flood up here like we had in 1936 or '37. Seven or 8 houses below here have been evacuated, and one man has 4 cows and a calf over here now, another man, his wife and 4 kids and a dog, and if it keeps up, the people across the road from us may come in. Water? Water everywhere. I have been soaked to the skin 3 times today already; roads are all washed out here and there, and lots of places are under water. Diane sure packed a lot of rain, I'll say, for this is about the 3rd day it's been raining.

We've heard the sad news that Earle Barr Hansen of Miami, Fla. died the latter part of July, right after his vacation out west, age 52, a very young-looking man for his age. He was planning on coming up this way in a month or so, to visit ye editor LeBlanc, Eli Messier, myself, and others.

We sure are going to miss him a lot. He was a musical director at the radio station WIOD and a composer of many songs. A Yale graduate, he

came from New Haven, Conn. 30 years ago. God bless him wherever he may be.

Bill Claggett says Boy, oh boy, Jacksonville is getting wild and wooley here lately, as 3 police captured an alligator the other night, also a bobcat was killed 5 miles from downtown Jacksonville. He says he has before him the New York Sunday News, July 24, '55 (colored mag section) and it shows a photograph of Union Square, "The Famed Dead Man's Curve", at 14th St. & Broadway. Bill has a Secret Service #537 The Bradys at Dead Man's Curve, or, Solving a Mystery of Union Square, and it shows the curve, also shows the place in the center of the track where the old cable line used to be, same as in the picture of the novel. Tousey sure had some real artists for his front covers in those days.

We are starting a drive for new members for Happy Hours Brotherhood and the Dime Novel Roundup, as follows:

1. One years' membership to Happy Hours Brotherhood.
2. One year subscription to the official organ, The Dime Novel Round-up
3. Your name and address listed in Dime Novel Round-up.
4. A 30-word ad in one month's Round-up free.
5. An old Nickel Novel free.
6. A list of all members up to date.
7. Over \$4 worth for only \$2. Can you beat it?

Come on fellow members, get your friends to join the one and only dime novel club in America that has for its official organ, the Dime Novel Round-up, and written by such famous writers as J. Edward Leithead, Charles Duprez, and others. Come one, come all, the more members we get, the better magazine we can have, so let's all get behind the wheel, Pard.

Kenneth Daggett of Gardiner, Maine, Don S. Learnard of Weymouth, Mass. and Eli Messier of Woonsocket, R. I. paid me a surprise visit July 27th. Then we went up to see Ernest Beique, a new member

known as the Swappers & Collectors Brotherhood of Saundersville.

Rev. Dan L. Steinhauer of Phila., Pa. was up twice July 29th and a few days after—too bad he couldn't have met some of the other brothers as well.

Just heard from Bob and Margaret Smeltzer that an old member of the H. H. Bro., about 1931? or thereabouts, died a short time ago; that was Michael Corcoran, formerly of Worcester, Mass.

I hadn't seen or heard of him in 10 or more years.

Yes, Guinon sure mentioned a lot of stuff about the reprint Merriwells we never knew, very interesting, but had that article appeared when the reprints were in vogue, it sure would have cut sales, as us old timers don't like having our favorite stories chopped up here and there and trying to improve on Pattens originals. The Layman wouldn't know the difference, but it took fellows like Guinon and Bob McDowell to note the changing around. I don't think any of the old crowd of Novel writers for that type of novel could beat or come up to Gil Patten, proven by the many years it forged ahead of all the others.

EXCHANGE COLUMN

Wanted—Buffalo Bill dime novels in foreign languages, except German, if not too expensive. Don Russell, 191 Clinton St., Elmhurst, Ill.

Wanted—Rough Rider Weekly #36, 73, 81, 83, 112, 113, 114, 162 and 170; Cobb Library #10, 11, 17, 24; and Starry Flag Series #3, 6, up. Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

For Sale—First 9 volumes of Golden Days, bound, 776 nos. \$50.00 plus delivery. Ernest Metler, Box 145, Tivoli, N. Y.

Wanted—The poem by Lydia Maria Child about a little boy taking a bird nest away. Wallace H. Waldrop, RFD #5, Box 139, Greenville, S. C.

Wanted—Victor Record Album P56 (Basin St.) Dan Bunda, 87 New Bond St., Worcester 6, Mass.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 201 Swapper's and Collectors Brotherhood, Box 624, Saundersville, Mass.
- 202 Howard L. Parkinson, 514 N. Mulberry St., Hartford City, Ind. (Old Member)
- 203 Dewey Miller, RD #2, Glens Falls, New York.

FOR SALE

Frank Merriwell's for sale, Merriwell Series, thick copies by Street & Smith, 50c per book. Over 200 copies.

John Hildebrand

3916 7th Ave. Brooklyn 32, N. Y.

ALL KINDS

DIME NOVELS
NICKEL NOVELS
STORY PAPERS
BOYS' WEEKLIES
SERIAL PAPERS
BOYS' BOOKS
GOOD USED BOOKS
ENGLISH WEEKLIES
BOUND VOLUMES
PULP MAGAZINES
and lots of other old time reading matter.

RALPH P. SMITH

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.

FOR SALE

Single copies and bound vols. of Harpers Young People, Harpers Round Table, Onward, Our Young Folks, Oliver Optics Our Boys and Girls. Also books by Henty, Castleman, Optic, Ellis, Mayne Reid. Send me your want list.

I want to hear from parties having single numbers (I do not want bound vols.) of Our Boys and Girls, Harpers Young People, Our Young Folks, Student and Schoolmate, Golden Days, The Holiday, Bright Days, Boys and Girls of America, Frank Leslie's Boys of America, St. Nicholas, Half Holiday.

Captain C. G. Mayo

Wild Acres, Huntington, Vermont

FOR SALE

26 copies Mackay Edition of Frank Merriwell, both covers and clean
Seventy cents each postpaid

Falkner: White Rose of Memphis, a new book priced five dollars
one dollar fifty cents

Vigilantes of Montana, new, two dollars, postpaid. U. of Okla. Press.

Want Dime Novels, good, clean, complete, for resale—cheap.

True West Magazine volume one, nos. one and two—one dollar each.
Others thirty cents each.

800 books fifty cents each postpaid.

Let me know what you need.

Let me know what you have in old Collier Weekly Magazines in the early 1900s

Your magazine wants cared for reasonably.

PHELPS BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Roy Phelps

522 Federal Avenue

Seattle 2, Wash.

FOR SALE

The following are a few selections from our stock of dime novels and story papers. We have lots of others.

Beadle's Weekly. Bound volume of 60 numbers not in running order. Includes #119 to #132 consecutive. \$20.00

Beadle's Star Journal. Bound volume #475 to 516 and 9 earlier numbers. 51 copies. \$20.00

Beadle's Saturday Journal. Bound volume of 47 numbers, not in running order. \$20.00

Boys of New York. Bound volume of 58 numbers between #753 and 883, not in running order. \$40.00

Flag of Our Union (Gleason story paper). Volume 9 #1 to 52, with #52 lacking last two pages. All serials are complete—nothing missing. \$10.00. Bound volume.

Young New Yorker (Beadle's). Bound volume #1 to 26 complete. Contains all that were published in fine condition. Johannsen says, "Copies of the paper are very rare . . .". Here is the complete set! \$40.00

Boys and Girl's Weekly (Leslie) #318 to 380 inclusive. Complete, not bound. \$30.00

Bound volumes Vickery & Hill papers, publishers' file copies. Fine condition. \$2.50 each. Comfort. Happy Hours. Good Stories, etc., etc.

Bound volumes London Journal (26 issues) \$2.50

Golden Hours. Happy Days. Over 2000 numbers.

Gentleman's Journal and Youth's Miscellany. (See Roundup for June). #1 to 149 bound in 4 volumes $\frac{3}{4}$ leather, plus 1 volume, similarly bound, containing 20 special monthly supplements. Fine condition. \$37.50.

Handsome Harry. Tousey's early colored cover weekly complete 16 numbers, bound \$50.00. English edition complete in 4 volumes, illustrated card covers, \$8.00.

The Blue Dwarf, with colored folding plates. Complete in three volumes \$7.50 (See Roundup for June)

New York Ledger. Bound, with covers detached. 1857 complete, \$12.50. Also Volume 28 and 29 bound together (104 nos.) Very large volume, \$25.00

Golden Argosy Volume 2. Bound. \$20.00

Good News (S & S) #236 to 245, average, \$5.00.

People's Literary Companion (1875) 5 for \$1.00.

Postpaid. Subject to prior sale.

RALPH P. SMITH

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.